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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking into Policies to Promote a Partnership Framework between Energy Investor Owned Utilities and the Water Sector to Promote Water-Energy Nexus Programs.

Rulemaking 13-12-011  
(Filed December 19, 2013)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING REGARDING ADVANCED METER INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROPOSALS AND SETTING WORKSHOP**

**Summary**

The Commission adopted Decision 15-09-023 in this proceeding, which adopted tools that will allow the Commission to better quantify the benefits of water-saving programs. The decision also ordered the Presiding Officer or staff to conduct a workshop on one or more pilots on Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) integration. The goal of the pilot(s) is to identify technical issues with a water corporation "piggybacking" on electric corporation and/or gas corporation AMI infrastructure. This ruling sets a workshop on January 19, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and sets a schedule for proposal filing and consideration. Final proposals shall be filed by February 16, 2016. Comments on proposals are due March 17, 2016, and reply comments are due March 22, 2015.

## **1. Background**

While the Commission has approved deployment of smart electricity and gas meters,<sup>1</sup> the Commission has not approved smart meters for Commission-jurisdictional water investor-owned utilities (IOUs). Water smart meters may offer significant water (and so energy) savings by, among other things, providing real-time feedback on water use. A smart meter can, under some circumstances, indicate immediately if there is a leak at a customer premises. In contrast, traditional billing systems may take weeks or months to provide evidence of a leak. In its comments on Decision (D.) 15-09-023, California Water Association (CWA) asked that: the Commission add the approval of AMI installations to the scope of the water-energy nexus proceeding because, as a result of the Governor's mandate to reduce statewide water consumption by 25 percent and the accompanying State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) promulgation of emergency regulations requiring per-utility conservation targets, there is an immediate need to provide customers with real-time information on their water consumption, which in turn the has created an accompanying potential for water and related energy savings.<sup>2</sup>

## **2. Workshop and Proposals Schedule**

A specific workshop agenda will be developed and circulated prior to the date of the workshop. Energy IOUs should be prepared to present draft proposals, including potential water pilot partners. The pilot proposals should complement, not displace, any already ongoing work in this area. If some pilots

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., D.10-04-027 (Decision on Application of Southern California Gas Company for Approval of Advanced Metering Infrastructure).

<sup>2</sup> CWA June 10, 2015 Comments, at pg. 2.

on AMI for water customers are already underway, entities should structure the new pilots to explore different questions. Energy IOUs should circulate a description of their draft proposal(s) to parties by January 8, 2016. Energy IOUs should file final proposals by February 16, 2016. Comments on proposals are due March 17, 2016 and reply comments are due March 22, 2016.

**IT IS RULED that:**

1. The assigned Commissioner will hold a workshop on January 19, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to discuss pilot proposals to identify technical issues with a water corporation “piggybacking” on electric corporation and/or gas corporation AMI infrastructure.
2. Energy Investor-Owned Utilities (IOU) should be prepared to present draft proposals, including potential water IOU pilot partners.
3. Energy Investor-Owned Utilities should circulate a description of their draft proposal(s) to parties by January 8, 2016.
4. Final proposals shall be filed by February 16, 2016. Comments on proposals are due March 17, 2016, and reply comments are due March 22, 2016.

Dated November 20, 2015, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL  
Catherine J.K. Sandoval  
Assigned Commissioner